

Sunday, April 22, 2018—I Corinthians 15:8—In Due Time

### Introduction

- The last time we were together two weeks ago we considered the post resurrection appearances of Christ by looking at verses 5-8.
- Recall from our past studies that Paul is recounting in the present what he had preached unto the Corinthians in the past. Moreover, the Corinthians had received it in the past which gave them a standing in Paul's gospel in the present.
- According to verse 3, Paul delivered unto them in the past what he had received from the Lord.
- Paul offers two great proofs for the resurrection of Christ:
  - The testimony of scriptures (vs. 3-4)
  - The post resurrection appearances of Christ (vs. 5-8)
- It is not just the empty tomb that skeptics need to explain away but the post resurrection appearances of Christ as well.
- In our study we concluded by looking at the first part of verse 8. It is there that I would like to pick up today's study.

### I Corinthians 15:8

- **And last of all he was seen of me also, as of one born out of due time.**
- Paul was the last person to whom the Lord appeared.
- Acts 9:4-6
- Acts 22:6-10
- Acts 26:12-18
- Ephesians 1:20-23—Paul did not just see the resurrected Christ. Paul saw the resurrected, ascended, and glorified Christ.
  - Philippians 2:9-11

- *as of one born out of due time*—there was something unique and distinct about Christ appearing to Paul last. When a woman is pregnant everyone wants to know here “due date” i.e., when is the baby due to arrive.
  - If the baby arrives early, it is said to be premature.
  - If the baby arrives late, its is said to be overdue.
- If something happens in “due time” it is occurring at exactly the correct time. Kohl’s used to have a line of baby clothes called “in due time.”
- The expression “in due time” occurs 5 times in your King James Bible.
  - Deuteronomy 32:35—speaking about the judgement of Israel.
  - Romans 5:6—Christ did for the ungodly at precisely the right time in the outworking of God plan.
  - I Corinthians 15:8—Paul saw the resurrected, ascended, and gloried Christ at precisely the right time in the outworking of God’s plan.
  - I Peter 5:6—in the ages to come God is going to exalt Israel at precisely the correct time.
- I Timothy 2:6—Paul is the due time testifier of all the Christ accomplished on the cross. Paul began to testify this information regarding the cross work of the Lord Jesus Christ in accordance with the due time appearance of Christ the Paul. Paul testified that Christ gave himself a ransom for all.
  - Matthew 20:28—“and to give his life a ransom for many”
  - Matthew 26:28—“shed for many for the remission of sins”
  - Mark 10:45—“and to give his life a ransom for many”
  - Mark 14:24—“shed for many”
    - Matthew 1:21—“for he shall save his people from their sins.”
    - Matthew 15:24—“I am not sent but unto **the lost sheep of the house of Israel.**”
    - Matthew 10:6—“But go rather to the lost sheep of the house of Israel.”
    - John 1:11—“He came unto his own, and his own received him not.”

- I Timothy 2:6—Paul was saying things about the resurrected Christ that are contradictory to what Christ himself said while he was on earth. But Paul said them out of “due time.” Paul said them when the time was right and fitting for them to be said. If Christ had said them in his earthly ministry, they would have been spoken in a premature fashion.
- I Timothy 2:7—Paul is ordained an apostle and teacher of the Gentiles according to the due time appearance of Christ and the due time revelation committed unto Paul.
  - Romans 11:13—Paul was the apostle of the Gentiles.
  - Galatians 1:11-15—Paul was taught directly by Christ and was separated unto this from his mother’s womb. When Christ appeared to Paul and began to reveal things to him that were heretofore unknown it was done at exactly the right time in the outworking of God’s plan.
    - Romans 16:25
    - I Corinthians 2:7-8—if the contents of this mystery had been made known in a premature fashion then Satan and his cohorts would not have crucified the Lord of Glory
    - Ephesians 3:1-10
    - Colossians 1:25-26
- I Corinthians 15:8—the church at large has failed to recognize the distinctive message and ministry of the apostle Paul. Therein lies the cause of our confusion and division. The word of God must be rightly divided if it is to be properly understood.